

"Everyone Has a Story, and We Want to Hear Yours"



by Ms. Carol LaVigueur, Administrative Contracting Officer,
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This statement is both the theme and the standard closing for the cable television show "As Time Goes By," produced by DCMA Boston Team Leader Mr. Bob Corey and his wife, Gay. The show, which airs daily, features life histories

of members of the Dracut, Mass., community.

Taping takes place at 10 a.m. every other Monday, Mr. Corey's flex day, at the Dracut Council on Aging. On this particular Monday, I arrive 15 minutes early, just in time to follow the Coreys into the neat, modern

structure where a myriad of senior activities are held. Our destination is a spacious, den-like room lined with tall bookcases brimming with reading material and a substantial library of audiotapes.

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While the Coreys busy themselves setting up the camera for filming the interview, a slender, silver-haired man introduces himself as Mr. Jack Lyons, a former Department of Defense (DoD) employee, who previously worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency. Mr. Lyons works with Mr. and Mrs. Corey

(Above) Front row, from left: Ms. Joyce H. Shaden, executive director for the Dracut Counsel on Aging, Mr. Bob Lafferty and Mr. Jack Lyons; back row, from left: Mr. Bob Corey and Mrs. Gay Corey (Photo by Ms. Carol LaVigueur, DCMA BAE Systems)

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to produce the show. The two men met as a result of their mutual involvement in political activities and interest in their local media.

Today's taping will center on the life of senior Mr. Bob Lafferty, who is ready to roll without a script — the information he has prepared is all in his head. For the next hour or so, he paints a colorful collage of images from an era gone by — city streets, as they once were, are conjured, as are places such as Gordon's Market, Jackie LaCente's barbershop and LaPorte's Drugstore. For the duration of the conversation, I am transported back to a time when "we darned our own knickers," as Mr. Lyons noted, or when Kennedy butter in a tub "was the only brand my mother would buy," according to Mr. Lafferty. It was also a time when specific meals, prepared at home, were eaten on certain nights: spaghetti on Wednesday; fish cakes on Fridays; and beans, franks and brown bread on Saturdays. Such reminiscing continues until the hour-long interview wraps up with a brief commentary by Mr. Lafferty on retirement: "I enjoy every minute of it. You have to get out of bed and get moving and find something to do."

Mr. and Mrs. Corey certainly have lots to do. In addition to the ongoing production of "As Time Goes By," they cover various town activities — the parades, "Old Home Day," graduations and events sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Rotary Club. The Coreys acquired their extensive and comprehensive training in media production six years ago at a media studio in North Andover, Mass., and then attended a follow-on course sponsored by Comcast.

Mr. Corey's love for media production is not just a personal hobby. It has also proven to be a valuable asset on the job. As a former quality assurance representative (QAR) for DCMA

Boston, he and three other DCMA (then Defense Contract Management Command) employees produced a movie titled "Charting the Cost of Non-Conformance," exploring the actual and not-so-apparent costs to the government when a product fails inspection. The movie essentially underscored the critical function of quality assurance within DCMA. Mr. Corey and his colleagues took the show on the road to various contractor facilities, where it was a hit with both the contractors and DCMA quality assurance personnel.

Mr. Corey is currently a team leader at DCMA Boston. He has an extensive background in quality assurance, including electronic, mechanical and chemical (liquid oxygen) certifications. He has been nominated for the Agency-wide QAR of the year award and won the local selection. Mrs. Corey is a talented artist, flower arranger and gardener. In addition to coproducing "As Time Goes By" and filming town activities throughout the year, she still finds time to do volunteer work for the senior community in Dracut.

It's true that "everyone has a story," and the stories of Mr. Corey and his wife are certainly worth telling.



(Above) Mr. Bob Corey, team leader, in his office at DCMA Boston (DCMA staff photo)